

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the application has been amended to conform with U.S. practice, and the cross-reference to related applications has been inserted on page 1. Claims 2 and 17 have been canceled. The claims have been amended in order to remove the multiple dependency. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
ROPELE 1 PCT

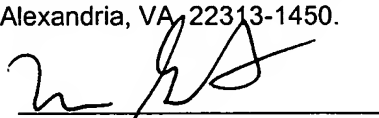


COLLARD & ROE, P.C.  
1077 Northern Boulevard  
Roslyn, New York 11576  
(516) 365-9802

Allison C. Collard, Reg.No. 22,532  
Edward R. Freedman, Reg.No. 26,048  
William C. Collard Reg. No. 38,411  
Frederick J. Dorchak Reg.No. 29,298  
Elizabeth C. Richter Reg.No. 35,103

Express Mail No. EV 590 258 770 US  
Date of Deposit January 18, 2005

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10, on the date indicated above, and is addressed to Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450.



Maria Guastella